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PAGE 01 OF 02 STATE 183185
ORIGIN EAP-08

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STATE 183185

0655 EAP3155

ORIGIN OFFICE (M-05)

INFO TC-01 P-01 RA-01 EAP-05 /013 A3 DM

INFO LOG-08 ADS-08 INR-07 EUR-08 SS-08 OPR-08 AF-08
CIAE-08 EA-08 DDOE-08 H-01 10-19 NEA-04 NSCE-08
ARA-08 NSAE-08 COME-08 SSO-08 NA-03 L-03 TASE-08
PH-10 AIT-02 PA-02 CCO-08 OMB-01 INRE-08 ACDA-12
AS-02 USIE-08 SP-02 MYP-01 SGP-01 PRS-01 OS-08
OIG-04 SCT-02 E-01 P-02 T-01 /018 R

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INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

SPECIAL EMBASSY PROGRAM

UNCLAS STATE 183185

BEIJING PASS CHENGOU

Z.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, CH

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BAKER'S 6/8 COMMENTS ON CHINA

1. IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
6/8, SECRETARY BAKER MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON
CHINA:

2. QUESTION: WHAT IS OUR VIEW OF ETHNIC DISTURBANCES
IN THE SOVIET UNION?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, I THINK THOSE ARE RATHER
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR THE LEADERSHIP. THEY HAVE
SUGGESTED AS MUCH, RECOGNIZED THEM AS SUCH. OUR VIEW,
OF COURSE, IS THAT WE STAND FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, THE
RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH, THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY. I THINK
THAT PRETTY WELL ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION.

WE'D LIKE TO SEE REFORM GO FORWARD IN THE SOVIET UNION.
WE TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT, TO SOME EXTENT, THE
POLITICAL REFORM PROCESS IN THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE A
BIT AHEAD OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROCESS. THEY HAVE GOT
SOME MAJOR, MAJOR STEPS TO TAKE TO FIND THEIR WAY TO A
MARKET ECONOMY.

I THINK THAT PERHAPS WE'VE SEEN SOMEWHAT THE REVERSE IN
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHERE THE ECONOMIC
REFORMS GOT PUT IN FRONT OF THE POLITICAL REFORMS. IT
IS OUR VIEW THAT DEMOCRATIC REFORM, POLITICAL, AND
ECONOMIC SHOULD PROCEED APACE...

3. QUESTION: IF WE COULD SWITCH REGIONS OF THE WORLD
FOR A MOMENT. WHO'S IN CHARGE IN CHINA?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, LET ME SUGGEST TO YOU THAT WE
HAVE SEEN VARIOUS REPORTS ABOUT WHO'S IN CHARGE. I
THINK IT'S TOO SOON, AND THE SITUATION IS TOO CLOUDED
NOW FOR US TO ANSWER THAT DEFINITELY BY SUGGESTING
NAMES -- THROWING NAMES OUT THERE FOR YOU.

THE CHINESE THEMSELVES, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, ARE NOT
SHEDDING A LOT OF LIGHT ON THIS, WHICH I THINK IS
ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS A POWER
STRUGGLE GOING ON IN CHINA.

4. QUESTION: ARE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS BEING CONSIDERED AS
A WAY TO BRING PRESSURE ON CHINA, AND CAN YOU RULE OUT
SPECIFICALLY THE USE OF A GRAIN EMBARGO?

SECRETARY BAKER: WELL, THE PRESIDENT, IN ANNOUNCING THE
ACTION THAT HE TOOK SEVERAL DAYS AGO WITH RESPECT TO
MILITARY SALES AND THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN
MILITARY ADVISERS, SAID THAT HE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO
REVIEW ALL OPTIONS AS THE SITUATION WARRANTS. FOR THE
TIME BEING, HE HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT
WE MAINTAIN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST NOW.

IN LARGE PART, I SAID A MOMENT AGO THAT I THOUGHT THE
REFORM PROCESS IN CHINA, THE ECONOMIC PART, GOT OUT A
LITTLE AHEAD OF THE POLITICAL PART. BUT IN LARGE PART,
THOSE ECONOMIC REFORMS ARE WHAT HAVE LED TO THE OPENING
UP THAT WE SAW BEFORE THIS RECENT TRAGIC AND UNFORTUNATE
AND DEPLORABLE CRACKDOWN.

SO, WE THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN, IF WE CAN
-- DEPENDING UPON WHAT HAPPENS AND DEPENDING UPON THE
FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS THERE -- THAT WE MAINTAIN THESE
ECONOMIC TIES, BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT FOR THE
MOST PART HAVE LED TO A MOVE TOWARD OPENNESS IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. BUT THE PRESIDENT DOES
RESERVE HIS OPTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALL THESE MATTERS.

5. QUESTION: IF, AS IT NOW APPEARS, THE HAROLDIMERS ARE
TAKING CHARGE IN BEIJING, WILL YOU HAND BACK MR. FANG,
THE DISSIDENT NOW IN THE U.S. EMBASSY, IF ASKED TO DO SO?

SECRETARY BAKER: MR. FANG IS IN THE EMBASSY WHERE HE
TOOK REFUGE FOR PERSONAL SAFETY REASONS. WE NEVER
DISCUSS QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE ISSUE OF ASYLUM, AND I
WILL NOT DISCUSS THAT NOW. LET ME SIMPLY SAY THAT HE
ASKED FOR REFUGE IN OUR EMBASSY AND WE GRANTED THAT
REFUGE. WE WILL BE MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY HIS WISHES IN
THIS REGARD.

6. QUESTION: IN RETROSPECT, WAS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN
BEIJING SLOW IN BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF EVACUATING
AMERICANS FROM BEIJING AND OTHER PARTS OF CHINA?

SECRETARY BAKER: NO, I REALLY DON'T THINK SO. I THINK,
FRANKLY, THAT WE WERE RIGHT ON THE MARK, IF I MIGHT
SUGGEST SO. I'VE SEEN SOME COMMENT TO THE CONTRARY. WE
HAVE HAD A WORKING GROUP MONITORING THIS SITUATION SINCE
THE 19TH OF MAY ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. WE HAVE BEEN
FOLLOWING IT VERY, VERY CLOSELY. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING
IT PERSONALLY VERY CLOSELY FOR THE PAST WEEK, OR SINCE
LAST SATURDAY MORNING, IN ANY EVENT, WHEN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES BEGAN TO GO IN THE DIRECTION THEY WERE
MOVING IN.

I HAVE BEEN IN VERY FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT
BY TELEPHONE AND IN PERSON ON EACH DAY SINCE THEN. OUR
EMBASSY HAS -- WHEN THE VIOLENCE BEGAN TO ERUPT ON
SATURDAY, OUR EMBASSY SENT SOME OF OUR OFFICERS AT SOME
PERSONAL RISK TO THESE DIPLOMATS, IF I MIGHT SAY SO,
INTO THE SQUARE TO ADVISE AMERICANS TO LEAVE. WE SENT
THEM TO THE CAMPUSES AND INTO TOWN TO SUGGEST THAT THEY
GIVE CONSIDERATION TO LEAVING.

WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION THROUGH CONTACT

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